



University of Massachusetts
Disability Evaluation Services
University of Massachusetts Medical School
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Procedural Standard 99-4

March 10, 1999

TO: Reviewers, Appeals Staff, CE Providers
FR: Susan West, Levine, Associate Director
BY: Susan Fitzpatrick, Director, Provider Relations ^{SMF}
RE: **Role of Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants and LICSW/LCSW in Consultative Examination process**

Purpose: This procedural standard defines the role of Nurse Practitioners (NP), Physician's Assistants (PA), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LICSW), psychologists and physicians in the consultative examination (CE) process.

NPs and PAs who are licensed/certified in their specialty in Massachusetts and who are working in a collaborative practice with a DES contracted licensed physician CE provider may participate in consultative examinations in conjunction with the CE provider.

LCSWs, and LICSWs who are licensed/certified in their specialty in Massachusetts and who are working in a collaborative practice with a DES contracted licensed psychiatrist or psychologist CE provider may participate in consultative examinations in conjunction with the CE provider.

It is the responsibility of the contracted CE provider to inform DES that the NP, PA, LCSW or LICSW will be participating in consultative examinations.

Regulatory Basis:

Division of Medical Assistance: Title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations (20CFR) 416.913 (a) (1-4) generally defines "acceptable medical sources" as licensed physicians, osteopaths, psychologists and optometrists. In § 416.913 (a) (6) it further states that "A report of an interdisciplinary team that contains the evaluation and signature of an acceptable medical source is also considered acceptable medical evidence."

Department of Transitional Assistance: Department regulations are closely based upon the federal code. Within chapter 106 of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations 106 (106 CMR 701.600) the Department authorizes a "competent medical authority" to perform CEs. A competent medical authority includes a physician, osteopath, psychologist and NPs and nurse midwives for the purposes of diagnosing pregnancy and pregnancy-related incapacity. Although the regulation limits the role of the NP and is silent on PAs, these two provider types can perform consultative examinations in collaboration with and under the direction of a physician.

DES Procedures:

Examinations will be scheduled by DES with the physician/psychologist provider who may then delegate the examination to the NP, PA, LCSW or LICSW. The physician/psychologist provider must meet the applicant at the time of the examination and review/confirm the findings of the examination. The NP, PA, LCSW or LICSW may dictate the report of the examination using the physician/psychologist provider's assigned transcription number. This report must include the names of the NP, PA, LICSW or LCSW and the physician/psychologist provider and must be signed by the physician/psychologist provider.

Reimbursement will be made to the physician/psychologist provider upon receipt of the signed report.

Summary: NPs, PAs, LCSWs, and LICSWs who are licensed/certified in their specialty in Massachusetts and who are working in a collaborative practice with a contracted licensed CE provider may perform consultative examinations, provided that the CE physician/psychologist provider meets the applicant, confirms findings, and signs the written report.